National Forest Policy

3820. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inspite of a specfific mandate of the National Forest Policy of 1952 and 1988 that forests should occupy 33 per cent of total land area of the country, barely 12% per cent of the geographical area of the country had a forest canopy cover of 40 percent density;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the allocation of this forestry sector for the Eighth Five Year Plan stood at Rs. 4082.00 crores which was not more than 0.94 per cent of the total allocations and showed perceptible declined when compared with percentage allocation made in Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether foreign donor agencies have found that due to inadequate funding by Government of India the externally aided forestry projects had failed to make the progress as laid down in Approved Projects-Documents; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial measures Government of India have taken to preserve forest conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the state of Forest Report of 1993, 11.73 per cent of the country's geographical area is in the category of Dense Forest with crown density above 40 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir. The allocation in the Forestry and Wildlife sector as a percentage of the total public sector outlay during the Seventh Five Year Plan was 1.03 per cent. However, in absolute terms the allocation in the sector increased from Rs. 1859 crore to Rs. 4082 crore.

(c) and (d) In view of satisfactory progress in the implementation of plantation programmes in the country foreign donor agencies are taking increasing interest in funding for forestry projects. As regards increasing allocations in the forestry sector, State Governments are being continuously persuaded to provide higher funds for forestry development in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Ganga Cleaning Project

3821. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made on the Ganga Cleaning Project·

(b) what is the total amount so far spent on the project;

(c) how soon, Government expect to complete the balance planned work;

(d) whether it is a fact that large amount spent on the project has not been properly used; and

(e) whether Government will appoint Expert Committee to go into the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Out of 261 schemes under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, 237 schemes have been completed.

(b) An amount of Rs. 401.09 crores has so far been released under Ganga Action Plan Phase—I.

(c) The remaining schemes of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I are expected to be completed by 31.3.1996.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Progress of Ganga Action Plan is reviewed regularly by the Central Ganga Authority and several committees under it. The Government has decided to have an independent evaluation carried out by an outside agency.

Allotment of Forest Land for its Development

3822. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the general policy and criteria for allotment of forest land to the private parties for its development;

(b) whether revenue is collected on such land by State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the forest land given the private parties for its development in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(e) the revenue collected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Prior approval of the Central Government is required under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes and for assignment of forest land to any organisation not owned, controlled or managed by the Government. Detailed consolidated guidelines have been issued by this Ministry for processing and examination of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in this regard. However, in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation and also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforestation schemes of the Central and State Governments. NGOs and people's cooperatives.

(b) and (c) While according approval to the proposals of the State Governments for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes, condition of compensatory afforestation, if applicable, is stipulated by the Central Government. As per this condition, the user agency is required to deposit the funds for compensatory afforestation in favour of the State Government.

(d) No approval has been accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for allotment of forest land to private parties for its development during 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(e) Does not arise.

आधुनिक दावानल नियंत्रण पद्धतियां

3823. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 27 जुलाई, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 167 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) शत-प्रतिशत रूप से केन्द्र द्वारा प्रायोजित "आधुनिक दावानल नियंत्रण पद्धतियां" नामक योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) इस योजना के अंतर्गत कौन-कौन सी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) और (ख) "आधुनिक दावानल नियंत्रण विधियां" नामक स्कीम के मुख्य घटक हैं, वन आग की रोकथाम, उनका पता लगाना तथा उन पर नियंत्रण करना, इस संबंध में अनुसंधान एवं विकास करना, प्रशिक्षण एवं निदर्शन, प्रचार, विस्तार और वनवासियों को शिक्षित करना है।

इस स्कीम के तहत राज्यों एवं संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की फायर लाइनों के सृजन एवं अनुरक्षण, आधुनिक दावानल शामक हस्तचालित ओजारों, जल हैंडलिंग उपस्करों, फायर फाइन्डर्स, फायर टेंडर्स, अचल एवं चल वायरलैत सेटों अग्निरोधी कपड़ों की खरीद, निगरानी टावरों के निर्माण तथा अनुसंधान, प्रशिक्षण एवं निदर्शन के लिए शतप्रतिशत वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जाती है।

MOU signed between HUDCO and French Agency

3824. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any MoU has recently been signed between HUDCO and a French agency for a long term cooperation for efficient management of solid wastes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Indo French Collaboration Programme, Solid Waste Management is one of the areas identified for cooperation. HUDCO organised a workshop on Solid Waste